

WAKEMAN'S WANDERINGS

MALTA AND THE MALTESE—III.

Street Scenes and Sights in Valetta. Maltese Women and Their Charming Ways—Levantine Bazaars—Luxurious Winter Residents and the Famous Church of St. John.

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VALETTA, Malta, Feb. 20.—The street scenes of Valetta may be briefly described in the statement that if one could combine Gibraltar, the Toledo of Palermo, the Acropolis of Athens and the modern Boulevard de la Republique of Algiers, and then remove from this conglomerate some of its Berber and oriental aspects, you would secure an excellent likeness to the impression you gain from the colorful scenes of everyday life and its activities in the chief city of Malta.

The constant presence of the British soldiery, the splendid, luxuriant and sometimes wantonly extravagant displays of the government officials and garrison officers, with endless parades and reviews, alone give the place extraordinary life and activity. As every native inhabitant of the islands is an adherent of the Roman Catholic faith, priests and students clad in priestly garb are never absent from sight, while the processions of an extraordinary number and frequently characterized by the greatest splendor.

Every day, and often many times a day, the huge passenger steamers of the Mediterranean discharge hosts of tourists here. Thousands during the winter months are on their way to or from Egypt, Australia or India. Thousands more are merely Mediterranean travelers. Nearly all are here for but a day, or part of a day, but the accessions are ceaseless and their members comprise people of every nationality. These are anxious to see much in little time, and with their chatter in all tongues, craning heads and enthusiastic faces, heighten and brighten the gay thoroughfares.

Then in all this singular and unique medley there are odd trifles for interest and study ceaselessly passing before you or forming distinct bits of color and antique in the strange and curious settings. Bare-footed sellers of the delicious Maltese oranges, which hide no less than nectar beneath their thin red skins, dart through the streets with their melodic cries and their endless "Sa-ha-sa" or "Good mornings" whatever the time of day, the most agile and alert human beings you ever behold.

Groups of watermen struggling to their homes beyond Floriana, redolent of harbor-side toil and traffic, gayly nod and smile and chant as they move within the throng. Here a boy of bright face, middle-aged, with the roll and swagger of old sea suits, but with the gravest decorum, look in this shop and that with respectful curiosity, always forming pleasant groupings, and now and then touching a sympathetic chord in your heart as members of the band struggle behind to peer into the faces of tourists with an eager, hungry look, as if with a faint hope of recognizing friends or relatives from the far away home. Officers from men-of-war, smileless and critical, and interested chiefly in the great fortifications, pass and repass constantly. They have a tolerant sort of bearing, and the look in their faces plainly tells the wonder of their battle ships might accomplish even against Malta should they ever chance to attempt a breach in its walls.

Solemn Turkish travelers and merchants, viewing everything askance, as though they remembered the Turkish heads La Valette once blew back from cannons' mouths into the ranks of the besiegers as reprisal, suddenly appear, whisk along for a moment and as suddenly are missing. Algerian Jews, often with their beautiful wives and daughters, rich in robes and splendid jewels, sweep past with a truly regal bearing. Well they may, for with the French in Algeria they are gaining great wealth from the vast tobacco plantations of Mascara, and they bring their finest cargoes to Malta, where the cheapest and best cigars in the world are made by the deft Maltese, who feel that they are rolling in wealth if they receive for a year's labor what would sustain the American cigar maker for only one month.

With all these will be half-naked Greek and Sicilian sailors chattering and gesticulating wildly. Cowed monks move noiselessly along. Shopmen rush from place to place to secure what their customers desire without losing them in the purchasing mood. Hawkers of lava *bijouterie* and lace plead and wrangle with tourists. Military bands are going and coming, filling the air with English, Scottish and Irish melodies, while adding to the exhilarating clamor of the town are heard all the tongues of all the nations, and above these the changing of countless church bells. These are never rung. They are always hammered with emulous staccato, as though each bellman were envious of out-hammering all others. The bells are never silent from matins to the angelus hour of evening. Even after they often break out as though they had got loose from restraint and were determined to enjoy a night of it, as all humans seem to do here in the soft and languorous air.

Indeed Valetta is never silent save in the early morning hours. Then it is like a city of the dead, but always sweet and cool and winsome. At that time if you are abroad alone the silent churches, the huge auberges, the tremendous ramparts, the vast archways, the dim porticoes and the shadowy balconies seem to whisper anew their tales of romance old, their mysteries of chivalry and knightly days.

But soon from this patio, from that narrow thoroughfare, another silent archway, from huge barred doors that open and close with a startling click, come funeral forms, clad in somber black. They glide along with bowed heads. Their advent has been so sudden and their number is at once so great that you are filled with surprise and dismay. But these do not remain. For a soft and delicate hand, as if by accident, with a swift motion changes the folds of the *falsetta*, and the pretty faces of half a thousand Maltese maids and matrons are one by one for a moment turned roguishly or kindly to yours. Then you realize that the faithful fair of Valetta are on their way to early mass, and you stand there hat in hand, yelping a reverent worshipper, mentally blessing one and all for their piety and pretty, gracious ways.

The Maltese women are among the pleasantest of their sex, both as to physical attractiveness and winsomeness of manner and character. They are as a rule more petite than those of Italy and Spain, but are very perfect as models of proportion and natural grace. Their carriage is superb. They possess an assurance which is never boldness, with a modesty untainted with prudery. Their feet, hands and heads are very small; their faces round rather than oval; their eyes and mouths are large and expressive, and there is an upward, confiding and expectant look in their faces that is very winsome—at least to men.

They are not generally intellectual, but, better still, they are contented home-makers, and are like birds of song in all the homelike joys. They mate early, being mothers at fourteen and grandmothers at thirty, when they are still youthful and

charming. During the reign of the knights quite an aristocracy of wealth and nobility for so small an area and population sprang up in the islands, which continues to this day, and the Maltese women of this class are types of the greatest beauty and elegance. As the men of the middle and lower classes are noted for docility, thrift, frugality and many other excellent virtues, virtue itself is the crowning glory of the Maltese maids and matrons; and to know this and of their affectionate, true-hearted and unassuming lives and ways is to find in every expression of Maltese female loveliness an added and lasting charm.

The shops of Valetta are peculiar in their character. Of late years Malta has become such an important winter resort for English and continental visitors, and such great numbers of sightseers for a day or two certain to be deposited by the dozen or more steamers making daily arrivals, that the shops of Strada Reale and Grande Rue have gradually taken on the character of a grand bazaar of the more fragile and costly products of all Mediterranean and Levantine countries.

Merchants from Tangier, merchants from Fez, merchants from Algiers and from Tunis, merchants from Cairo, Alexandria and Constantinople, Persian and Arabian merchants, Italian merchants and Spanish, even the thrifty Swiss with their curios from the mountains, and the ubiquitous Japanese, all with their most tempting *genere* are here, living together in mutual good will, and with tailors from London, perfumers and modistes from Paris and coiffeurs from Greece, furnish a more bewildering display and variety of costly wares and luxuries than could be found save by a connoisseur in Paris, London or New York.

This not only adds greatly to the charm and interest of street scenes and displays, but tends toward luxuriousness in habit and life on the part of those enjoying the winter upon the islands. These folks, as a rule, are drawn from the wealthiest of the English, Germans and French. They live sumptuously at the great hotels, at clubs or in private villas in the suburbs of Valetta, the principal of which is Silema, where the elegance and display is not unrivaled in the London west end. The English government of Malta has provided splendid driveways and greatly improved the country roads. Indeed, in the costliness of apparel, in the magnificence of the shops, in the throngs of fair women of the northern type and in the superb displays in riding and driving that in any winter afternoon may be seen along upper Strada Reale and Grande Rue, and from Porta Reale through Floriana around to Silema, and over ever white driveway leading to the interior constantly remind one of the throngs of Regent street and the morning processions of stately equipages in London's famous Rotten Row.

Every stranger in Malta will visit the great Church of St. John. It stands today as it left the grand master's hands, save in that it was deprived of by Bonaparte's looting. If not perfect in architectural grace, its exterior, which is surrounded by the Maltese cross, is massive and stately, while the interior, with its historic associations ever in mind, is wonderfully impressive. It is gorgeous with every species of decoration. Its pavement is of costly varicolored marble. The high altar is resplendent with silver, gold and precious gems. It occupies the center of the choir and at either side are low dais beneath crimson canopies, with a solitary chair on each—one for the Catholic bishop of Malta and the other dedicated to the Protestant monarch of England. Above the latter are the royal arms.

Not the least interesting features of the Church of St. John are the chapels of languages and the memorial vaults of departed knights. The nave is long and wide, and the walls are fretted in curious devices, gilt with sequin gold. Approaching the aisles on either side, the eye rests, as through golden arches, upon a range of small, dome crowned chapels, the altar pieces of which are curious old paintings. These were the chapels of the different languages or nations, as of France, Italy, Provence, Auvergne, etc., and these are extraordinarily rich in noble monuments in marble and bronze.

The Virgin chapel, hidden from the body of the church by the choir, possesses a balustrade of massive silver; and here are to be seen the keys of three cities of strength over which the Knights of St. John once ruled—Jerusalem, Acre and Rhodes. Standing out from the dark paneling of the choir immediately behind the altar, sculptured in white marble, is a representation of the "Baptism of Christ." It is the work of Maltese artists of the Seventeenth century, and I have not seen its superior in any of the famous churches of Europe. The high, boldly arched vaulting of the roof is entirely covered with paintings representing scenes and incidents in the life of St. John, and the tapestries that hang below, which are said to have cost \$50,000, are of wonderful proportions and beauty.

Between the pillars separating the nave and the aisles are many monuments, some incrustated with Jasper and agate and all of unrivaled richness and grandeur. It is said that at least every square foot of the vast structure covers the body of a once valiant knight, the monuments to grand masters and architects and officers engaged in the embellishment of the edifice are bewildering in their frequency and magnificence, and the entire structure stands today a grand yet pathetic mausoleum and reminder of the power and glory of those Christian warriors of an heroic and a chivalrous past.

This constant mingling of reminiscences of medieval heroism with every other quality and object so strange and unique in semibarbaric life adds, and the whole lighted by the gayeties and brilliancies of the thousands of wealthy strangers of your own kind and tongue, is one of the most fascinating sensations to be experienced in any city of the Mediterranean.

Wherever you turn you are confronted by majestic or exquisite relics of a former grandeur carrying its material splendor into the present, and weirdly conjuring the forms, faces and lofty motive of those who built. Everything you see shows you modern power adapting the sepulchres of the most lustreous chivalry the world ever knew to the practical and unpoetic uses of far-reaching diplomacy and aggressive acquisition. And everything you hear illustrates how the warm, vigorous blood of today is flowing back upon all the east and its dead past, thrilling a new and better life into its mummied old frame.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

The Superior MEDICINE

for all forms of blood disease,

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

the health restorer, and health maintainer.

Cures Others will cure you.

ON THURSDAY, MAY 5th, at 5:30 P. M.,

I SHALL OFFER

FOR SALE BY AUCTION

HOUSE NO. 201 WASHINGTON STREET, and two HOUSES in rear of same fronting on Staples street, with the lots thereto belonging. The property is rented to good tenants and pays well. Terms announced at sale.

F. H. PLUEMACHER, Auctioneer.

[my1]

AUCTION SALES—Future Days.

By N. W. Howe, Real Estate Auctioneer.

THE BEST GRAIN AND STOCK FARM

IN THE VICINITY OF RICHMOND, SITUATED ON JAMES RIVER, KNOWN AS

WESTHAM COTTAGE,

AND BEING ABOUT FIVE MILES WEST OF RICHMOND, AT A STATION ON THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD.

AT AUCTION.

At the request of the owner I will sell at auction on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1892,

at 10 o'clock A. M., at my office, No. 4 Eleventh street, THAT VALUABLE, PRODUCTIVE, ATTRACTIVE AND WELL LOCATED JAMES HILL FARM, situated above referred to, containing 100 ACRES OF LAND in a fine state of fertility. About 100 acres of this land is James river low grounds and the balance is level or gently rolling high land, especially adapted to stock raising, as it is natural grassland and also grows luxuriantly the cultivated grasses. It is unusually well watered by running streams and the whole place is well fenced.

This is a choice property, is within thirty minutes' drive from the city, has an excellent soil, possesses beauty of situation and is situated on the railroad at a station and is in the direction of the city's best and most rapid growth.

The dwelling is plain but commodious, and the outbuildings, including ice-house, dairy, etc., are amply sufficient and in good order, the barn being the largest and best arranged in the South.

All persons, whether intending buyers or not, are cordially invited to drive out and inspect the property.

Terms: One-fourth cash, and the residue at one, two and three years for notes, with interest payable semi-annually and secured by a trust deed.

N. W. HOWE, Auctioneer.

ap 30my1,5,5,7,10,11

By N. W. Howe, Real Estate Auctioneer.

FIRST-CLASS GROVE AND FLOYD AVE. SUE LOTS AT AUCTION.

THIS IS NOT A TRIAL OFFERING, BUT REAL BUSINESS.

At the request of the owner, who means business, I will sell, on the premises, on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1892,

at 10 o'clock P. M., ELEVEN EXTRA HANDSOME, VERY VALUABLE AND MOST DESIRABLY LOCATED BUILDING LOTS, five of which, fronting each 30 feet, are on the south side of Grove avenue, beginning at the east line of Robinson street, and the other six are on the north side of Floyd avenue, beginning at the east line of Robinson street and all running back 150 feet 9 inches to a wide alley.

The lots on Floyd avenue will be sub-divided to suit.

These lots are strictly choice, are about 15 inches above the street, within a square or so of the street cars, have beautiful shade trees in their front and will be sold in lots to suit, with privilege of one or more.

The improvements in the vicinity are in keeping with the beauty and value of the land, and the neighborhood is an excellent one. Come to the sale without fail, as this presents a rare chance for bargain.

Terms: Will be very accommodating, and made known at sale.

N. W. HOWE, Auctioneer.

my1,5,7,10,11-12

BICYCLES, &c.

There you will find the

NEWEST STYLES IN TOWN.

A fresh lot was received last week and is now open to inspection. It embraces all the latest shapes for men, ladies, youths, misses and children. And our

PRICES ARE LOW.

Nobody can outsell us when quality and figures are to be considered. Bring the lots around and tell your wife and daughter to make us call, and drop in and see us yourself. Remember the number,

507 East Broad Street.

WANTS.

WANTED—TENANTS FOR THE FOLLOWING FARMS: To rent for the summer or for rent four conveniently-located FARMS, two of same dwellings being plainly furnished, on the Richmond and Appomattox rivers, leaving the city at 6 P. M., returning 7:15, reaching the city at 8 A. M. Fare, round trip, about 35 cents by purchasing common ticket to Lynchburg. Also two other small TRUCK FARMS near the city of Richmond. Apply immediately to

THOMAS RUTHERFORD,

my 1-th 3rd 4th 7th 10th 11th 12th

A FEW YOUNG GENTLEMEN CAN BE ACCOMMODATED with BOARD in a private family on South Fourth street, between the Washington and Boarder, care Times office. my1

WANTED—TO SELL A SOLID WALNUT REFRIGERATOR. Good as new. Apply at 17 east Grace between the hours of 11 and 2. my1-12

WANTED THIS WEEK—ONE HUNDRED COOKS, LAUNDRESSES, HOUSEMAIDS, WAITERS, BUTLERS, COACHMEN, DRIVERS, HELPERS, PORTERS, FARM HANDS and GENERAL WORKERS for first-class families in the Northern cities and country; wages from \$15 to \$25 per month, near Annapolis, Md. Apply to

W. E. ELSON'S EMPLOYMENT AGENCY,

my 1-12 4th 7th 10th 11th 12th

WANTED—A LOYAL MAN WHO HAS SOME experience at setting type. Apply at the Times office between 5 and 6 o'clock P. M. ap 2-12

WANTED—BY A FIRST-CLASS STENOGRAPHER, to make an engagement. Best of references furnished. Address STENOGRAPHER, care Times office. Richmond, Va. 82-25-12

WANTED—TO SELL AN ANKLE PHAETON; in use only six months. Address PHAETON, care Letter Carrier 25. ap 2-12

LIBERAL ADVANCES MADE ON DIAMONDS, WATCHES, CLOTHING, PISTOLS, etc., and all personal property. All amounts over \$5 we only charge 2 per cent. interest.

F. STERN & CO., Pawnbrokers,

de 13 1505 east Main street.

HELP WANTED.

MAN WITH PUSH WANTED IN EACH CITY and town to introduce the fastest selling household article on record. Over a million sold in Philadelphia. Will pay commission of \$1 per day. Address with stamp, H. W. WILLIAMSON, 44 north Fourth street, Philadelphia, Pa. ap 17-30

LOST AND FOUND.

MEMPHIS, TENN., April 25, 1892. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I HAVE lost or mislaid certificate No. 376 for eighty shares of Virginia Construction Company stock issued to JOSHUA PATTERSON and assigned to me, and that I will make application to that company for the issue of a new certificate as provided by law.

ap 28-th 12th JOHN OVERTON, Jr.

JOB WORK

NEATLY EXECUTED BY

THE TIMES COMPANY.

BARTON HEIGHTS.

HOUSES AND LOTS FOR SALE

—ON— MONTHLY PAYMENTS.

Only a mile and a quarter from centre of the city. Vacant in process of erection. Stop-paying rent and own your home. Apply to

JAMES H. BARTON,

de 27-12 819 MAIN OR BARTON HEIGHTS.

FOR RENT.

FOR RENT—WANTED TO RENT, A WELL lighted room with power, suitable for light manufacturing purposes. Heated by steam. Conveniently located as to wharves and railroad. Apply to H. E. J. JONES, 102, Twenty-sixth and Main streets, Richmond, Va. ap 2-12

ROOTS, SHOES, &c.

TRUNKS, VALISES, GLADSTONES, SATCHELS,

GRIPS, CABIN BAGS, ETC.,

In all the Shapes, Sizes and Styles.

A Large Stock at Lowest Prices, always taking the quality in consideration.

NATURAL LAST SHOES FOR COMFORT.

J. A. GRIGG,

Face Block.

ap 10-12

WHEN YOU ARE ABOUT

—TO—

BUY A PAIR OF SHOES

You always want to go where you can get the best quality you can for your money, don't you?

And you also want to be well and politely treated, too.

Nowhere in Richmond

Can your wishes be better satisfied in these respects than they can at

BOSCHEN'S,

507 East Broad Street.

There you will find the

NEWEST STYLES IN TOWN.

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JOB WORK

NEATLY EXECUTED BY

THE TIMES COMPANY.

RAILROADS.

N. & W. Norfolk & Western R.R.

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT DECEMBER 6, 1891.

LEAVE RICHMOND (DAILY).

8:30 A. M. Richmond and Norfolk through express. Arrive Norfolk 11:30 A. M. Stop only at Petersburg, Waverly and Suffolk.

10:05 A. M. For Roanoke, Radford, Bristol; also connects at Radford for Bedford and Rockingham. For car Petersburg to Roanoke, and Pullman sleeper Roanoke to Memphis via Knoxville and Chattanooga.

12:40 P. M. For Lynchburg, Roanoke and intermediate stations. No connection beyond Roanoke.

5:40 P. M. Arrives at Norfolk at 9:30 P. M.

11:30 P. M. For Roanoke, Radford, Pulaski, Bristol. Also for Bluefield, Pocahontas, Elkhorn and stations on the Lynchburg Valley Division. Also for Louisville and stations on L. & N. R. R. via Norton. Pullman palace sleeper between Richmond and Lynchburg. Berths ready for occupancy at 9:00 P. M. Also Pullman sleeper Petersburg to Louisville via Norton, and Roanoke to Memphis and New Orleans via Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Trains arrive Richmond from Lynchburg and the West daily at 7:44 A. M., 1:50 P. M. and 7:40 P. M.; from Norfolk and the East at 11:45 A. M. and 6:38 P. M.

Tickets, baggage-checks, and all information can be obtained at Richmond and Petersburg railroad depots; A. W. Garber, 901 Main street; and at the Company's office, 538 east Main street.

R. W. COULTELL, Passenger Agent.

W. B. BEVILL, General Passenger Agent.

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CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILWAY COMPANY.

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT APRIL 15, 1892.

Leaves Richmond, BROAD STREET STATION.

5:30 A. M. Daily for Norfolk.

6:30 A. M. Daily for Norfolk.

7:30 A. M. Daily for Norfolk.